# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
# LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:50
ANSWERED ON:20.02.2003
SUBSCRIPTION RATES FOR CABLE T.V. CONNECTIONS
DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA;PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL

**Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:**

(a) whether subscription rates for cable TV connections can now be prescribed and regulated;

(b) if so, the steps taken to do so;

(c) whether some cable operators are enhancing the subscription charges without any restraint;

(d) whether the Government have any plan to encourage Residents` Welfare Associations to establish their own MSOs and cable signal distribution systems to save subscribers from the whims of private operators; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (e): A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.50 FOR ANSWER ON 20-2-2003 REGARDING SUBSCRIPTION RATES FOR CABLE T.V. CONNECTIONS

(a): As per sub-section (4) section 4A of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Amendment Act, 2002, if the Central Government is satisfied that it is necessary in the public interest so to do, it may, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify the maximum amount which a cable operator may demand from the subscriber for receiving the programmes transmitted in the basic service tier ( i.e. free-to-air channels), provided by such cable operator.

(b): The Government has set up a Task Force consisting of representative(s) of Ministry of I&B, Multi System Operators (MSOs), Electronic Equipment Manufacturers, Broadcasters, Cable Operators and Consumer Groups, to examine various issues and over-see implementation of the Conditional Access System as per the Act. One of the terms of reference of the Task Force is to make recommendations regarding the size and cost of the basis service tier. The Task Force has started functioning.

(c): There are no legal provisions in the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 to regulate subscription charges. Subscription charges depend upon market forces. Some representations and news reports regarding increase in the cable subscription charges have come to notice from time to time.

(d) & (e): While the Government has no such plans, Resident Welfare Associations are free to set up their own cable distribution services, within the provisions of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995.